

NEW EDITION



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★

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SIERRA  
LEONE

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C. MAGBAILY FYLE

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# Historical Dictionary of Sierra Leone

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paraphernalia of worship and their charms and amulets. Many refused, understanding rightly that this spelled doom for their livelihood and way of life. One famous diviner, Nkodi, is remembered as one who successfully evaded these orders. The Bomboh Lahai Yusufu, whose position as traditional ruler was linked with such divination, would definitely not have seriously entertained these orders of Haidara.

As Haidara became more strident, denouncing the colonial government and ordering people not to pay their taxes, the colonial administration called on Yusufu to expel Haidara from Tonko Limba. With Haidara's overwhelming popularity in Tonko Limba and with Yusufu lacking an organized military force, the request to expel Haidara could not readily be carried out. The colonial government had to send a force to Tonko Limba to carry out the expulsion, and Haidara died in the ensuing clash.

The colonial administration then accused Yusufu of complicity in an anti-British uprising. To prove his innocence, Yusufu agreed that he would "eat bread," a solemn oath administered with rice flour and traditional "medicines." If the British had been interested in determining Yusufu's guilt or innocence, they could well have realized that the local people feared the process of "eating bread" wrongfully more than almost anything else. But the British were convinced of Yusufu's guilt and, in any case, disdained African traditions. Yusufu was thus deposed as paramount chief in 1931. He retired into private life and died about a decade later.

— Z —

**ZIMMI.** A town in the Makpele chiefdom of the Pujehun District in southern Sierra Leone.

## Bibliography

This bibliography concentrates on the period from 1970 to the present. However, there are a number of older bibliographic guides that will be listed in the initial section of the collection, irrespective of dates. Some published works of an earlier provenance have had a major impact on research and writing on Sierra Leone, for example, Christopher Fyfe's *Sierra Leone Inheritance* (London: Oxford University Press, 1964). Such works will be included. Noticeably absent will be a listing of articles from the journal *Sierra Leone Studies*. This journal had a long tenure from 1918, as the *Journal of the Sierra Leone Society*, but ceased publication in 1939 and was revived by the Institute of African Studies, Fourah Bay College, as the "new series" in 1953. There are a couple of indexes to *Sierra Leone Studies* found in the general section of this bibliography.

One of the major contributors of documentation in Sierra Leone History is the late Paul Hair. An important portion of his work relates to translation of historical documents from Portuguese to English. He published a series of such translations in the *Africana Research Bulletin* (15 in all) starting with "Sources on Early Sierra Leone: (1) Beaulieu 1619." (6, 4, 1974). While all 15 are not mentioned in this bibliography, other translations by Hair are noted throughout the collection.

Unpublished sources are generally not included in this compilation. An important source is Toma J. Makannah's "A Bibliography of Studies on Population and Development of Sierra Leone." Interested readers can find this on the Internet on <http://www.sierra-leone.org/bibliography-population.html>.

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